

**REVISED MINUTES OF THE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**
Thursday, October 21, 2004 – 8:00 a.m. – W110 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas V. Hatch, Senate Chair
Rep. Demar "Bud" Bowman, House Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Absent:

Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Ed P. Mayne
Rep. Brad King

Staff present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Susan Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Phalin Flowers, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.leg.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting may also be available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Bowman called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. Sen. Dmitrich and Rep. King were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Overview of Entities Involved in Economic Development of Rural Utah

Mr. Jack Cox, State Director, Utah offices of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Rural Development, distributed and discussed "USDA/Rural Development Utah Community Programs" and "Committed to the future of rural communities." Mr. Cox stated they receive approximately ½ of one percent of the national amount as an initial allocation which generates about \$25 million per year. More than 50 percent of funding during the year was put into guaranteed loans and housing loans in rural areas.

Mr. Wes Curtis, Executive Director, Utah Center for Rural Life, gave a power point presentation on rural economic development. Rural communities have limited infrastructure, workforce, amenities, and support services. Much of the rural economic base is connected to state and federal public lands. He discussed the committees created in SB 50, Rural Development and Planning Act. Mr. Curtis pointed out that some of these committees have very small staffs and there is no dedicated program money.

Mr. Scott Truman, Executive Director, Council (Utah Rural Development Council), distributed and discussed "Utah Rural Development Council" and "Southern Utah University Rural Honors presents the Rural Partnership of the Year Award." The Council has been in existence since 1994. He reviewed the mission statement and congressional authorization for the Council. Recommendations for improvement include funding assistance, support, and assistance in identifying future players.

Mr. Steve Daniels, Director, Community Development at USU (Utah State University), distributed and

discussed "Community & Economic Development Assets at USU Cooperative Extension." Community development is one of the four cornerstones of USU's Extension Program and is the least well-developed of the four areas. He discussed the statewide assets available to help in the revitalization process.

Lt. Gov. Gayle McKeachnie commented on the importance of higher education in the role of economic development. He noted that there are not enough business people involved in the process. He stressed that economic development is a major issue to rural Utah.

Mr. Ed Meyer, Director, Office of Rural Development, Division of Community Development, Department of Community and Economic Development, said that the office was established to implement SB 50. Programs the office is involved with include smart sites, rural enterprise zones, and recycling zones. He distributed "Governor's Rural Partnership Board – Preliminary Rural Action Agenda." He discussed the coordination between agencies and noted some of the accomplishments that have been made.

Ms. Irene Hansen, Director, Duchesne County Economic Development, relayed some of the many economic and development problems that Duchesne County has encountered which include a decrease in population and assessed value. She paid tribute to the Department of Community and Economic Development and the role it has played in helping to turn that situation around.

Mr. Delynn Fielding, Director, Carbon County Economic Development, said they receive some funding from cities within the county, but the primary funding source is Carbon County. He urged the Legislature keep in mind that there are 3-4 separate and distinct economic eco systems in the state, each with different needs and requirements.

3. State Funding for Economic Development of Rural Utah

Mr. Wade, discussed "In Depth Budget Review for the Division of Business and Economic Development," which was mailed to the Committee. He said the report was prepared by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in September 2004.

Mr. Dan Tuttle, U.S. Magnesium, requested that the Committee consider all the existing companies in rural Utah because it is not just the small companies that are struggling.

4. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for November 23, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bowman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.